

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 AID-20 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

EUR-25 DRC-01 /173 W

----- 037224

R 081013Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

US MISSION GENEVA 411

USDEL JEC PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 1296

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 3881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ECAFE:VS:CH

SUBJECT : RED:ECAFE:POSSIBLE PRC ATTEMPT TO INVITE "PRG"
TO ECAFE

REF: SAIGON 2974

TOKYO 4481 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ECAFE MEMBERSHIP RULES INDICATE ANY STATE IN
REGION CAN BE ADMITTED UPON OBTAINING UN MEMBERSHIP. PROCEDURAL
RULES GIVE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AMPLE POWERS, BUT ASIAN SYSTEM
OF RULING BY CONSENSUS WOULD HAMPER A "FREE WHEELING" CHAIRMAN.
PRC EXPECTED CHALLENGE GVN CREDENTIALS AGAIN AS IT DID AT
TOKYO SESSION LAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ECAFE MEMBERSHIP CONTAINED PARA 1,
RETEL, RELATING TO BOTH GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE AND UN MEMBERSHIP
ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. ECOSOC RESOLUTION 517(XVII) OF APRIL 22,
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1954, REFERRED ONLY TO STATES NOT THEN MEMBERS OF THE UN WHICH

WERE ALREADY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF ECAFE. IT PROVIDED FOR THEM TO BECOME ECAFE MEMBERS AFTER THEY JOINED THE UN. TEXT POUCHED SAIGON.

2. CURRENT RULES ON ECAFE MEMBERSHIP ARE CONTAINED IN PARA 3 OF ECAFE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AS ADOPTED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS FOURTH SESSION AND AMENDED BY COUNCIL AT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS, INCLUDING FIFTY-FIRST AND FIFTY-SECOND AND REVISED IN CONSEQUENCE OF VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS 2622(XXV) AND 2751(XXVI) AS FOLLOWS. QUOTE 3. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF AFGHANISTAN, AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BURMA, CHINA, FRANCE, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, JAPAN, THE KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS, MALAYSIA, THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, NAURU, NEPAL, THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, THE PHILIPPINES, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, TONGA, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WESTERN SAMOA, PROVIDED THAT ANY STATE IN THE AREA WHICH MAY HEREAFTER BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHALL BE THEREUPON ADMITTED AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION. UNQUOTE.

3. ABOVE TERMS OR REFERENCE ARE CONTAINED IN ANNEX III OF ECOSOC ANNUAL REPORT FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION (E/CN.11/1101).

4. ECAFE RULES OF PROCEDURE (CONTAINED ANNEX IV OF SAME ECOSOC REPORT ABOVE) PROVIDE AMPLE POWERS FOR COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TO INFLUENCE PROCEEDINGS. RULE 25 STATES: QUOTE, IN ADDITION TO EXERCISING THE POWERS CONFERRED UPON HIM ELSEWHERE BY THESE RULES, THE CHAIRMAN SHALL DECLARE THE OPENING AND CLOSING OF EACH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, SHALL DIRECT THE DISCUSSION, ENSURE THE OBSERVANCE OF THESE RULES, AND SHALL ACCORD THE RIGHT TO SPEAK, PUT QUESTIONS TO THE VOTE, AND ANNOUNCE DECISIONS. THE CHAIRMAN MAY ALSO CALL A SPEAKER TO ORDER IF HIS REMARKS ARE NOT RELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION. UNQUOTE.

5. IN ADDITION, RULE 12 PROVIDES: QUOTE, THE CHAIRMAN AND THE TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN SHALL EXAMINE THE CREDENTIALS AND REPORT UPON THEM TO THE COMMISSION. UNQUOTE.

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6. DESPITE THESE SPECIFIC RULES, THE COMMISSION ALWAYS OPERATES "IN THE ASIAN WAY" ACCORDING TO CONSENSUS. THERE IS A BASIC TENDENCY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. NO VOTES ARE EVER TAKEN. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY A CHAIRMAN COULD "FREE WHEEL" IN CONTROLLING THE DEBATE FOR LONG, BECAUSE HE COULD BE BROUGHT UP SHORT BY OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS.

7. WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION HERE ON HOW PRC PROPOSES ACT AT 30TH SESSION COLOMBO BUT WOULD EXPECT PRC TO EXPAND ON ITS MAIDEN STATEMENT APRIL 12, 1973, AT 29TH SESSION IN TOKYO (REPORTED TOKYO 4481 NOTAL) WHICH CHALLENGED LEGITIMACY OF LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND UNILATERAL REPRESENTATION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BY GVN. IT ALSO CONSIDERED ROK UNILATERAL REPRESENTATION IN ECAFE ABNORMAL.

8. DESPITE THIS CHALLENGE, ECAFE SECRETARIAT THROUGH USE OF SO CALLED "PLANNED CONFUSION" TACTIC WAS ABLE TO POSTPONE ISSUE AND EVENTUALLY CONVINCE CHAIRMAN ALL CREDENTIALS WERE IN ORDER. THIS WAS THEN ANNOUNCED BY CHAIRMAN AT END OF APRIL 19 SESSION NEAR END OF CONFERENCE. NO DEBATE ENSUED BUT PRC LATER COMPLAINED TO SECRETARIAT THAT IT HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD JAPANESE CHAIRMAN.

9. WITH SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER EXPECTED TO BE CHAIRMAN AT 30TH SESSION AND IN AN ENVIRONMENT MORE FAVORABLE TO PRC AND PRG THAN TOKYO (E.G. GVN IS NOT ACCREDITED AND PRG OFFICE IS REPORTEDLY OPEN IN COLOMBO) WE CAN EXPECT PRC WILL AGAIN CHALLENGE CREDENTIALS OF GVN AND KHMER REPUBLIC MAINLY FOR EFFECT. ECAFE TERMS OF REFERENCE DO NOT APPEAR PROVIDE ANY POSSIBILITY FOR PRC TO SECURE SEAT FOR PRG AT CONFERENCE TABLE SO LONG AS PRG IS NOT UN MEMBER.

10. WHETHER CHALLENGED OR NOT, WE DO NOT EXPECT GVN DELEGATE WILL TONE DOWN ITS CRITICISM OF PRC SEIZURE OF PARACELS. IT STRONGLY CONDEMNED PRC AT RECENT ECAFE ENERGY MEETING BUT PRC WAS NOT PRESENT.
KINTNER

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